

# Why we celebrate

## Forward

The Wolf Pack celebrated the United State's 230th birthday Tuesday. Some may not even know that the Declaration of Independence wasn't signed on the Fourth of July. It took weeks for most of the signers to lay their lives on the line and place their "John Hancock" on the document - a move that could have had them hanged. The following pages contain information touching on a short span of our nation's history.

It's important for every military member, especially those stationed far away from home, to remember why we are dedicating ourselves across the globe to bring peace and stability to every corner. 230 years ago, our forefathers and 13 small colonial states had the right reasons, dedication and fortitude to fight off one of the world's greatest superpowers of the time; for the same reasons we are here protecting our South Korean allies, guaranteeing them continued lives of a free and democratic society.

~ Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan

"The Declaration of Independence is one of the most powerful documents man has ever written."

Dr. John Glover  
Wolf Pack Historian

## THE DECLARATION IN A NUTSHELL

1. We have a problem, and we need to tell you, the world, about it.
2. The charges leading us to claim independence.
3. ... and this is what we're going to do about it.



One of twenty-four surviving copies of the first printing of the Declaration of Independence done by Philadelphia printer John Dunlap in the evening of July 4.

## Q&A

Did the forefathers send the Declaration of Independence to King George III? The declaration wasn't written for the king, it was written for the world stage. Congress never sent it to the king.

What would have happened to the signers if they were caught? Signing was formal treason against the British Empire, had they been caught they would have been hanged, drawn and quartered.

## Chronology of Independence

1776

**JUNE 7**  
Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, receives Richard Henry Lee's resolution urging them to declare independence.

**JUNE 11**  
Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston appointed to a committee to draft a declaration of independence. American army retreats to Lake Champlain from Canada.

**JUNE 12 - 27**  
Jefferson, at the request of the committee, drafts a declaration, of which only a fragment exists. Jefferson's clean copy, the "original Rough draught," is reviewed by the committee.

**JUNE 28**  
A fair copy of the committee draft of the Declaration of Independence is read in Congress.

**JULY 1 - 4**  
Congress debates and revises the Declaration of Independence.

**JULY 2**  
Congress declares independence as the British fleet and army arrive at New York.

**JULY 4**  
Congress adopts the Declaration of Independence in the morning. John Dunlap prints the Declaration of Independence. These prints are now called "Dunlap Broadside." Twenty-four copies are known to exist, two of which are in the Library of Congress. One of these was Washington's personal copy.

**JULY 5**  
John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, dispatches the first of Dunlap's broadsides of the Declaration of Independence to the legislatures of New Jersey and Delaware.

**JULY 6**  
Pennsylvania Evening Post of July 6 prints the first newspaper rendition of the Declaration of Independence.

**JULY 8**  
The first public reading of the Declaration is in Philadelphia.

**JULY 9**  
Washington orders that the Declaration of Independence be read before the American army in New York; from his personal copy of the "Dunlap Broadside."

**JULY 19**  
Congress orders the Declaration of Independence engrossed (officially inscribed) and signed by members.

**AUGUST 2**  
Delegates begin to sign engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence. A large British reinforcement arrives at New York after being repelled at Charleston, S.C.

1777

**JANUARY 18**  
Congress, now sitting in Baltimore, Maryland, orders that signed copies of the Declaration of Independence printed by Mary Katherine Goddard of Baltimore be sent to the states.

1783

**April 11**  
Congress officially declares an end to the Revolutionary War.

**September 3**  
The Treaty of Paris is signed by the U.S. and Great Britain. Congress will ratify the treaty on January 14, 1784.

## WHO FOUGHT AND WHO RAN DURING THE WAR



1/3 Pro Independence  
(Land owners.)

1/3 Loyalists  
(Government officials, Judges, etc.)  
A lot ran to Canada after the war.)

1/3 Average Americans  
(People who were just living life,  
Demographic remained throughout war.)

## Treaty of Paris

The treaty, sent to Congress by the American negotiators, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay, formally ended the Revolutionary War. They emerged from the peace process with one of the most advantageous treaties ever negotiated for the United States. Two crucial provisions of the treaty were British recognition of U.S. independence and the delineation of boundaries that would allow for American western expansion.

## FAST FACT

Although Philadelphians marked the first anniversary of American independence with a spontaneous celebration, observing Independence Day only became commonplace after the War of 1812.